

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An isolated RAP polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a coding sequence for the RAP polypeptide of claim 1.
3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the coding sequence is SEQ ID NO:12 or a degenerate variant thereof.
4. A method of treating a *Staphylococcus* infection, comprising:  
administering to a subject having a *Staphylococcus* infection an amount of RAP effective to elicit an antibody response in the subject to treat the *Staphylococcus* infection.
5. A vaccine comprising the RAP polypeptide of claim 1 or an antigenically effective portion thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
6. A method of preventing *Staphylococcus aureus* infection, comprising administering to a subject a RAP polypeptide in an amount effective to elicit an immune response thereby creating antibodies which bind RAP.